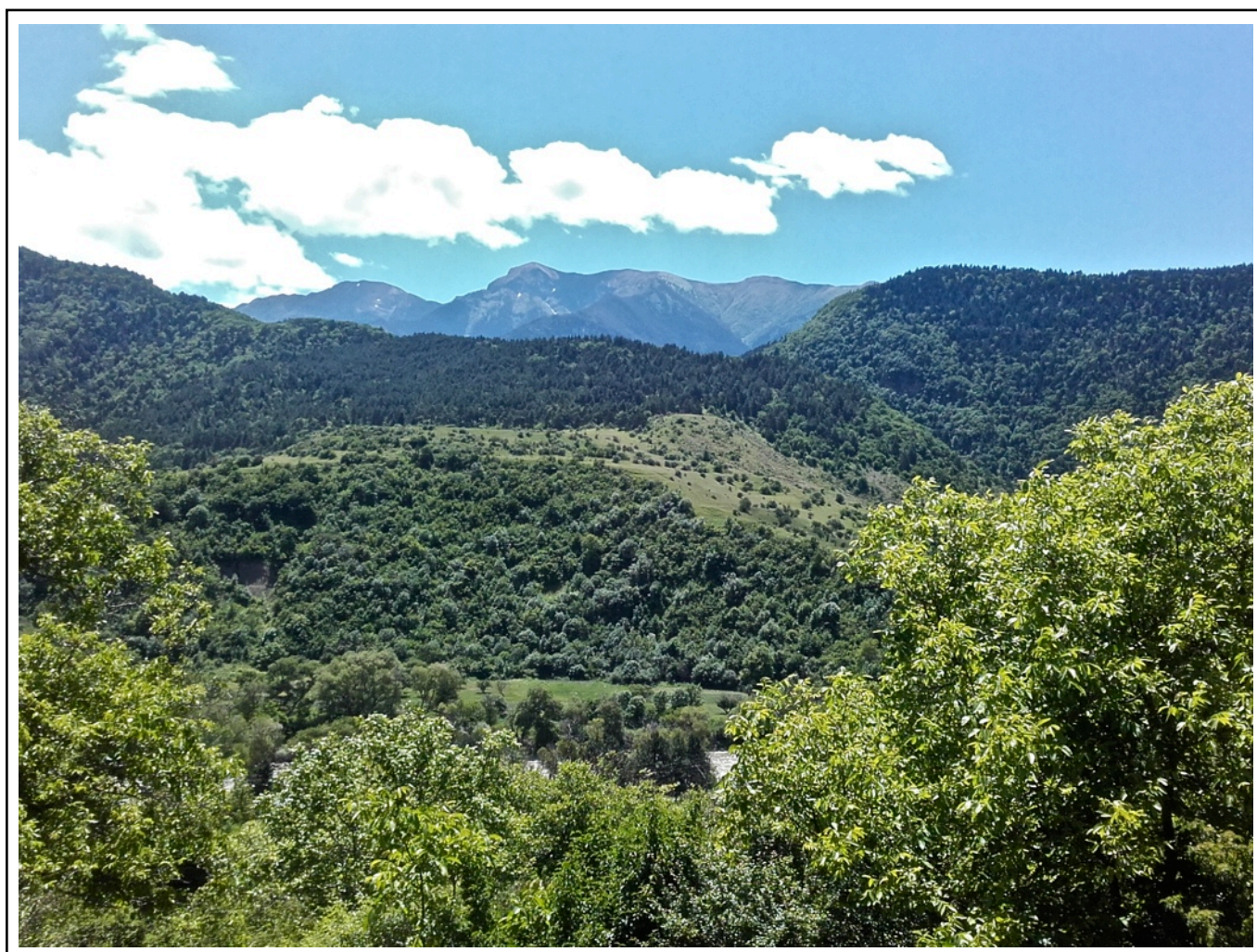


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A new *Idolus* Desbrochers des Loges, 1875 for the Caucasus region (Coleoptera, Elateridae, Pomachiliini)

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new species; Turkey.
description;

Abstract. – The genus *Idolus* Desbrochers des Loges, 1875 is currently represented by two species in the Palearctic region. In addition to the species *Idolus adrastoides* Reitter, 1888 from the Caucasus, now another species has been identified from the Caucasian region. The new species *Idolus caucasicus* sp. n. is described and illustrated. A key to the differentiation of the two Caucasian species is given.

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Introduction

Pomachiliini is a small tribe of the elaterid subfamily Elaterinae Leach, 1815 (Bouchard et al., 2011). The fauna of the Palearctic region is formed by the following six genera: *Betarmon* Kiesenwetter, 1858, *Idiotarmon* Binaghi, 1940, *Idolus* Desbrochers des Loges, 1875, *Idotarmonides* Agajev, 1985, *Isidus* Mulsant & Rey, 1875 and *Parabetarmon* Ohira, 1970. The genus *Idolus* can be distinguished from the other genera by the following combination of characters: the frons is separated from the anterior margin of the head by an entire carina that is evenly rounded and situated immediately behind the frontal suture at the middle; the antennae are rather short and weakly serrate from the fourth segment on; the pronotum is strongly convex, with subparallel sides that are strongly arcuate near the anterior angles or slightly broadened, the lateral margins are sharply defined throughout but not visible near the apex when viewed dorsally, the posterior angles are strongly carinate; the prosternal-pleural sutures are wide, double, and strongly excavated anteriorly; the tarsal joints are simple, and the length of first four tarsal joints decreases regularly (Brown, 1933; Gurjeva, 1979; Platia, 1994).

In the Palearctic region, *Idolus* is currently represented by two species: *Idolus adrastoides* Reitter, 1888, and *Idolus picipennis* Bach, 1852. While *I. picipennis* is distributed across nearly the entire Western Palearctic, *I. adrastoides* is restricted to the Caucasus region, occurring in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Russia (South European Territory) and Turkey (Cate, 2007; Tarnawski et al., 2018). During an excursion in the Borjomi-Kharagauli National Park in Georgia, the author collected a larger number of specimens of *Idolus*. A detailed examination of the material from Georgia showed that, in addition to *Idolus adrastoides*, there exists an undescribed species. The examination of further material has revealed that the new species has also been found in other parts of the Caucasus region, such as Abkhazia, Armenia and Turkey. This paper describes

the new species *Idolus caucasicus* sp. n. from the Caucasus region. The new species is similar to *I. adrastoides* in its habitus, but clearly differs in some characters, such as external morphology and the genitalia of both sexes. Additionally, a key to distinguishing the two Caucasian species is given.

It should be noted that *Idolus picipennis* from Europe is probably a species complex. Pheromone studies by König et al. (2015, 2016) and Tolasch et al. (2013) suggest that there are likely at least three additional undescribed species in Germany alone. Further studies are needed.

Material and methods

The holotype and a female paratype of the new species are deposited in the Bavarian State Collection for Zoology in Munich, Germany (CZSM). All other Paratypes are preserved in the collections of A. Jarzabek-Müller, Riedlhütte, Germany (CAJM), J. Mertlik, Opatovice nad Labem, Czechia (CMHK) and G. Platia, Gatteo, Italy (CPG).

The measurements were made by using a stereoscopic microscope (Leica S8APO) with an integrated measuring ocular. The body length was measured (mm) along the midline from the anterior margin of the frons to the apex of the elytra. The width was measured across the broadest part of the body (near the middle of the elytra). The pronotal length was measured along the midline. The width was measured at the hind angles, which is also the broadest part of the pronotum.

The habitus and main characters were photographed using a Fujifilm X-H2 with two macro lenses (Laowa 25mm F2.8 Ultra Macro 2.5-5.0x and the Laowa 100mm F2.8 CA-Dreamer Macro 2x) and a Nikon Coolpix 4500 digital camera attached to the stereoscopic microscope.

The subfamilial and tribal placement of the genus follows Bouchard et al. (2011).

Reviewers:

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Results

Subfamily **Elaterinae** Leach, 1815

Tribe **Pomachiliini** Candèze, 1859

Idolus caucasicus sp. n.

(Fig. 1, 2, 5, 7, 9, 11)

ZooBank: <https://zoobank.org/C082F043-7AD1-4343-BE2D-DFEEC561C28A>

Holotype, ♂, (CZSM) (Fig. 1), **Georgia**, Borjomi-Kharagauli National Park, 959 m a.s.l., 41°44'51.756"N / 43°10'36.48"E, 12.VI.2017, leg. A. Jarzabek-Müller & J. Müller, beaten from flowering common dogwood (*Cornus sanguinea*).

Paratypes

- 1 ♂, 2 ♀ (CAJM), **Georgia**, Borjomi-Kharagauli National Park, 959 m a.s.l., 41°44' 51.756"N / 43°10'36.48"E, 11.VI.2017, leg. A. Jarzabek-Müller & J. Müller;

- 1 ♀ (CAJM), same data as holotype;

- 1 ♀ (CZSM) (Fig. 2), **Georgia**, Borjomi-Kharagauli National Park, 960 m a.s.l., 41°44'42.468"N / 43°10'41.412"E, 13.VI.2017, leg. A. Jarzabek-Müller & J. Müller;

- 3 ♂, 16 ♀ (CAJM), **Georgia**, Borjomi-Kharagauli National Park, 960 m a.s.l., 41°44'42.468"N / 43°10'41.412"E, 3.VI.2017, leg. A. Jarzabek-Müller & J. Müller;

- 2 ♂, 5 ♀ (CAJM), **Georgia**, Borjomi-Kharagauli National Park, 960 m a.s.l., 41°44' 42.468"N / 43°10' 41.412"E, 14.VI.2017, leg. A. Jarzabek-Müller & J. Müller;

- 1 ♀ (CMHK), **Georgia**, the road from Bakuriani to Tskhratskaro pass, ca. 2000 m, 5.7.2015, Vladimir Zieris lgt.;

- 1 ♂ (CPG), **Abkhazik**, Caucasus, 31.V.1975, A. Podlussany;

- 1 ♀ (CPG), **Abkhazia**, Auton. Rep., Caucasus Occ., Glavnyy Kavkazsky khrebet, Pskhusskiy, Zapovednik, Sanchara Polyana, 1010 m, 17-22.VII.2011, A. Podlussany & I. Retezar;

- 1 ♂ (CAJM), **Armenia**, near Teghut, 1030 m a.s.l., 41°5'26.268" N / 44°48'39.06" E, V-VI/2016 (flight interception trap), leg. J. Müller;

- 1 ♀ (CAJM), **Armenia**, Ditavan, 1242 m a.s.l., 40°56'49.812" N / 45°12'28.368" E, VIII-IX/2016 (flight interception trap), leg. J. Müller;

- 1 ♀ (CAJM), **Armenia**, near Ayrum, Zikatar Environmental Center, 1253 m a.s.l., 41°07'33.7" N / 44°55'20.7", 19.V.2016, leg. A. Jarzabek-Müller & J. Müller;

- 1 ♂ (CPG), **Turkey**, vil. Trabzon, Sumela, m 1600, 20.VI.1994, A. Warchalowski.

Type locality. – Georgia, Lesser Caucasus, Borjomi-Kharagauli National Park, 959 m a.s.l., 41°44'51.756"N / 43°10'36.48"E.

Differential diagnosis. – *Idolus caucasicus* sp. n. resembles *Idolus adrastoides* Reitter, 1888 in general shape but can be separated by its larger size, shinier pronotum, shorter antennae, narrower dorsal stripe on the elytra, finer and more regular pubescence of the body, the regularly rounded apex of the ninth sternite and differences in the sclerites of the bursa copulatrix and aedeagus.

Description of the holotype (Fig. 1)

Coloration. – Body elongate; head, pronotum, scutellum, meso-, metasternum and abdomen black to black-brown with reddish shadings at the anterior angles of pronotum and parts of prosternum and hypomeron; elytra light brown, darkened at base of elytra, scutellum and along the suture and at the lateral margins; dorsal stripe confined to the first interstria, diffusing into the second in the middle of elytra; legs yellowish brown; antennae dark brown, first three antennomeres reddish yellow; maxillary and labial palps yellowish brown; entire body covered with fine and recumbent pubescence, head and pronotum with light yellow, elytra with yellow and rusty-yellow pubescence.

Frons. – Convex; anterior margin arcuate, directed downwards, nearly touching the clypeus in the middle; punctuation dense, punctures umbilicate with shiny intervals, smaller than their diameters.

Antennae. – Exceeding by a half antennomere the apices of the posterior angles of pronotum; second antennomere sub-cylindrical, third antennomere sub-conical, almost subequal in length, the third is barely visible shorter than the second, taken together 1.5 times longer than fourth, very slightly serrated from the fourth antennomere on, the last antennomeres nearly with sub-parallel sides.

Pronotum. – As long as wide, widest at the apices of the posterior angles; moderately convex, with a short shallow mid-longitudinal depression at the basal slope; sides narrowed anteriorly, sub-parallel in the middle; posterior angles long, slightly divergent, unicarinate; carina sharp; pronotal lateral margins complete, almost fully visible in a dorsal view (not visible near anterior angles); punctuation moderate dense; punctures slightly umbilicate with variable intervals, equal to their diameters to smaller; interstices on disc shiny (Fig. 5); smooth and shiny areas at the lateral slope.

Scutellum. – Tongue-shaped, long as wide, flat to slightly convex, with straight frontal margin, slightly sinuate at the sides; punctured, interstices with weakly wrinkled surface.

Elytra. – 2.86x longer than pronotum, 2.58x longer than wide, moderately convex, sides sub-parallel from the base to almost the middle, then gradually tapering to the apices, the latter truncate and weakly dentate; striae regularly distinct punctured, larger intervals towards the apices; interstriae flat, finely punctured.

9th sternite. – Long as wide; lateral sides from half gradually narrowed toward apex, apically rounded (Fig. 7) (length 0.8 mm).

Aedeagus. – As in Fig. 9 (length 0.7 mm).

Key to the Caucasian species of the genus *Idolus* Desbrochers des Loges, 1875

Male

1. Size larger (5.5-6.6 mm); elytra covered with fine, regular, yellow and rusty-yellow pubescence; antennae shorter, exceeding the apices of posterior angles of pronotum by 0.5 antennomere; pronotal surface shinier (Fig. 5); abdominal sternite IX rounded at the apex (Fig. 7); aedeagus (Fig. 9) *Idolus caucasicus* sp. n. (Fig. 1)
- Size smaller (4.0-5.2 mm); elytra covered with rougher, semi-erect, yellow pubescence; antennae longer, exceeding the apices of posterior angles of pronotum by 1-1.5 (2) antennomeres; pronotal surface more or less shagreened (Fig. 6); abdominal sternite IX truncated at the apex (Fig. 8); aedeagus (Fig. 10) *Idolus adrastoides* Reitter, 1888 (Fig. 3)

Female

1. Size larger (6.0-7.3 mm); elytra covered with fine, regular, yellow and rusty-yellow pubescence; antennae shorter, not reaching the apices of posterior angles of pronotum; pronotal surface shinier; bursa copulatrix with four well-developed sclerotized plates (Fig. 11) *Idolus caucasicus* sp. n. (Fig. 2)
- Size smaller (4.5-5.8 mm); elytra covered with rougher, semi-erect, yellow pubescence; antennae short, just reaching the apices of posterior angles of pronotum; pronotal surface more or less shagreened; bursa copulatrix with two well-developed and two atrophied sclerotized plates (Fig. 12) *Idolus adrastoides* Reitter, 1888 (Fig. 4)

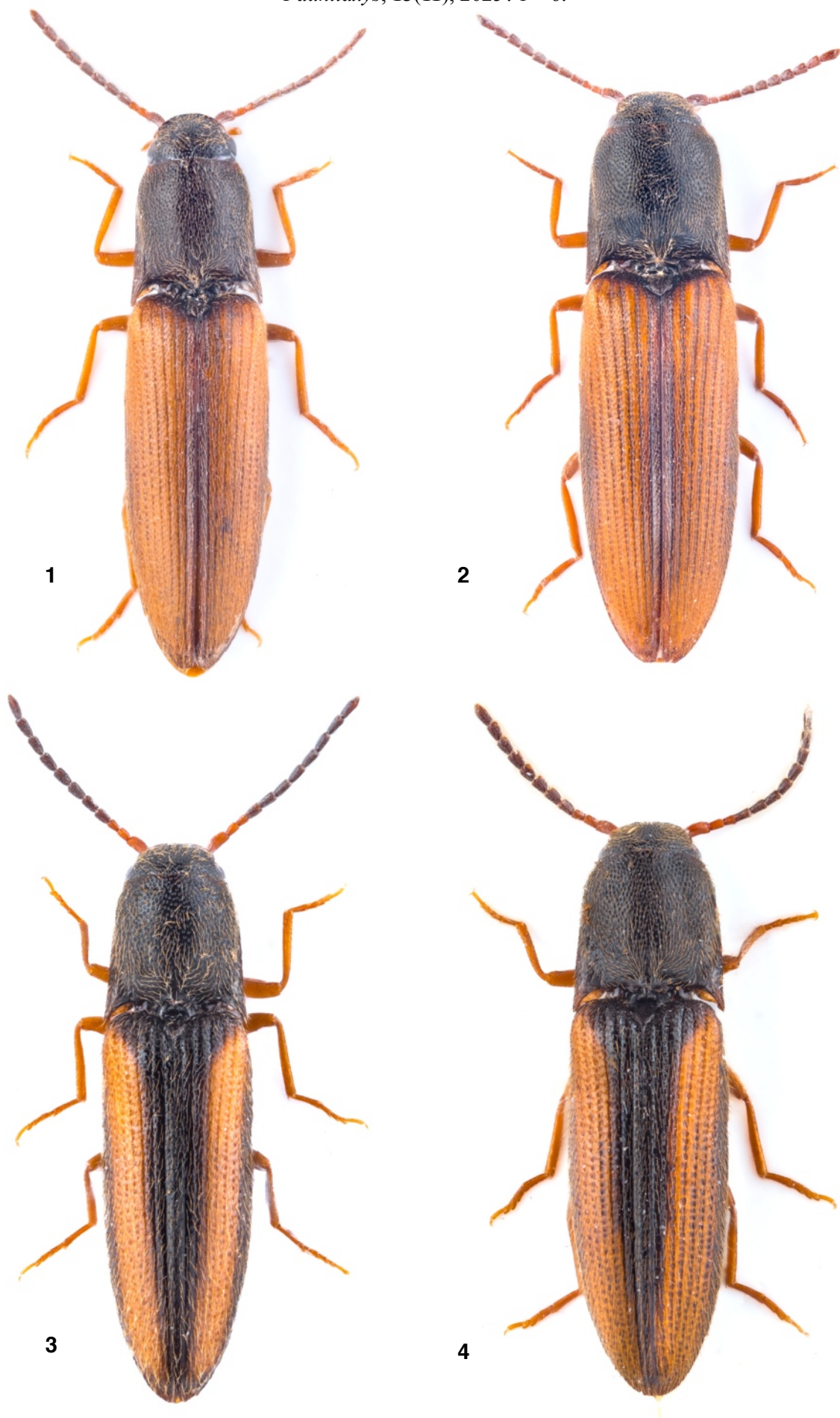


Fig. 1-4. Habitus of *Idolus* species, dorsal view.

1-2. *Idolus caucasicus* sp. n. 1. ♂ (holotype), length 5.9 mm, Georgia. 2. ♀ (paratype), length 6.9 mm, Georgia. 3. *Idolus adrastoides* Reitter, 1888, ♂, length 4.4 mm, Georgia. 4. *Idolus adrastoides* Reitter, 1888, ♀, length 4.7 mm, Georgia.



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Fig. 5-6. Pronotum, dorsal view. **5.** *Idolus caucasicus* sp. n., ♂. **6.** *Idolus adrastoides* Reitter, 1888, ♂.
Fig. 7-8. Abdominal sternite IX. **7.** *Idolus caucasicus* sp. n., ♂. **8.** *Idolus adrastoides* Reitter, 1888, ♂.
Fig. 9-10. Aedeagus, ventral view. **9.** *Idolus caucasicus* sp. n., (length 0.7 mm). **10.** *Idolus adrastoides* Reitter, 1888 (length 0.5 mm).
Fig. 11-12. Sclerite plates of bursa copulatrix. **11.** *Idolus caucasicus* sp. n. **12.** *Idolus adrastoides* Reitter, 1888.

Size. – Length 5.9 mm; width 1.55 mm.

Female (Fig. 2). – Similar to male by the coloration; body larger and more robust than male, covered with finer pubescence; antennae shorter, not reaching the apices of posterior angles of pronotum; posterior angles of pronotum even less divergent as in male.

Bursa copulatrix. – With four well-developed sclerotized plates (Fig. 11).

Size. – Length 6.9 mm; width 1.9 mm.

Variability. – Body length of males 5.5-6.6 mm, width 1.5-1.7 mm; body length of females 6.0-7.3 mm, width 1.6-2.0 mm. Sometimes the dorsal stripe on the elytra is missing or only slightly noticeable.

Etymologie. – The specific name is derived from the Caucasus region where the new species was collected.

Collection circumstances. – Both sexes were beaten in Georgia from flowering shrubs (*Cornus sanguinea*) in the middle of June. The shrubs were in an open woodland with forests and hedgerows of oak, hornbeam, hazel, pine, spruce and fir (Fig. 13 & 14). In Armenia, the new species was captured using flight interception traps placed in old-growth beech forests (see Mamadashvili, 2024).

Distribution. – Georgia (including Abkhazia), Armenia, Turkey. It is probable that the new species will also be found in other countries in the Caucasus region if more material is examined.

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Fig. 13. Open woodland in the Borjomi-Kharagauli National Park (Georgia, Lesser Caucasus).



Fig. 14. Flowering hedgerows in the Borjomi-Kharagauli National Park.

Résumé

Jarzabek-Müller A., 2025. – Un nouvel *Idolus* Desbrochers des Loges, 1875 pour la région du Caucase (Coleoptera, Elateridae, Pomachiliini). *Faunitaxys*, 13(11): 1 – 6.

Le genre *Idolus* Desbrochers des Loges, 1875 est actuellement représenté par deux espèces dans la région paléarctique. En plus de l'espèce *Idolus adrastoides* Reitter, 1888 du Caucase, une autre espèce a été identifiée dans la région caucasienne. La nouvelle espèce *Idolus caucasicus* sp. n. est décrite et illustrée. Une clé de différenciation des deux espèces caucasiennes est donnée.

Mots-clés. – Coleoptera, Elateridae, Pomachiliini, *Idolus*, taxonomie, nouvelle espèce, description, clé, Caucase, Géorgie, Abkhazie, Arménie, Turquie.

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A new *Idolus* Desbrochers des Loges, 1875 for the Caucasus region (Coleoptera, Elateridae, Pomachiliini).

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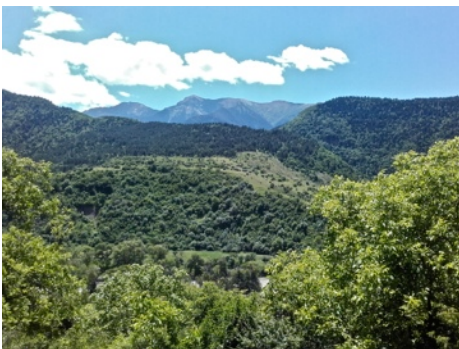


Illustration de la couverture :

Open woodland in the Borjomi-Kharagauli National Park (Georgia, Lesser Caucasus).

Crédits:

L. Haselberger : Fig. 1-4.

A. Jarzabek-Müller : Fig. 5-6.